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97TH CONGRESS, 2d Session } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES { REPORT No. 97-668

1.1/8:97-668 COMPLETED

DESIGNATING THE MARY McLEOD BETHUNE COUNCIL HOUSE IN WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

JULY 27, 1982.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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Mr. UDALL, from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 6091]

[Including the cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 6091) to designate the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House in Washington, District of Columbia, as a national historic site, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

Page 1, line 3, strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

That the Congress finds and declares that—

CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

SECTION 1. (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds and declares that—

(1) the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House was the residence in Washington, District of Columbia, of Mary McLeod Bethune, renowned educator, national political leader, and founder of the National Council of Negro Women;

(2) it was at this location that Mary McLeod Bethune directed activities that brought her national and international recognition;

(3) this site was significant as a center for the development of strategies and programs which advanced the interests of black women and the black community;

(4) it was at this location that Mary McLeod Bethune, as the president of the National Council of Negro Women, received heads of state, government officials, and leaders from across the world;

(5) the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House was the first national headquarters of the National Council of Negro Women, and is the site of the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial Museum and the National Archives for Black Women's History;

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(6) the archives, which house the largest extant manuscript collection of materials pertaining to black women and their organizations, contains extensive correspondence, photographs, and memorabilia relating to Mary McLeod Bethune; and

(7) the museum and archives actively collect artifacts, clothing, artwork, and other materials which document the history of black women and the black community.

(b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act—

(1) to assure the preservation, maintenance, and interpretation of this house and site because of its historic relationship to the life and achievements of Mary McLeod Bethune, an outstanding leader in the areas of housing, employment, civil rights, and women's rights; and

(2) to assure the continuation of the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial Museum and the National Archives for Black Women's History at this site, the preservation of which is necessary for the continued interpretation of the history of black women in America.

ESTABLISHMENT OF HISTORIC SITE

SEC. 2. In order to further the purposes of this Act and the Act of August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461–7), the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House at 1318 Vermont Avenue, Northwest, in the city of Washington, District of Columbia, is hereby designated as a national historic site (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the "historic site").

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

SEC. 3. In furtherance of the purposes of this Act and the Act of August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461–7), the Secretary of the Interior is authorized and directed to enter into cooperative agreements with the National Council of Negro Women. Such agreements may include provisions by which the Secretary will provide technical assistance to mark, restore, interpret, operate, and maintain the historic site and may also include provisions by which the Secretary will provide financial assistance to mark, interpret, and restore the historic site (including the making of preservation-related capital improvements and repairs but not including other routine operations). Such agreement may also contain provisions that—

(1) the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the National Park Service, shall have right of access at all reasonable times to all public portions of the property covered by such agreement for the purpose of conducting visitors through such properties and interpreting them to the public; and

(2) no changes or alterations shall be made in such properties except by mutual agreement between the Secretary and the other parties to such agreements.

No limitation or control of any kind over the use of such properties customarily used for the purposes of the National Council of Negro Women shall be imposed by any such agreement.

ANNUAL REPORT

SEC. 4. The National Council of Negro Women shall, as a condition of the receipt of any assistance under this Act, provide to the Secretary of the Interior and to the Congress of the United States an annual report documenting the activities and expenditures for which any such assistance was used during the preceding fiscal year.

AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 5. There is authorized to be appropriated $100,000 to provide financial assistance under section 3 of this Act. There is also authorized to be appropriated for purposes of making grants to the National Council of Negro Women for purposes of this Act an additional $100,000 to be provided, as may be agreed to by the Secretary of the Interior and the National Council, on a 50–50 matching basis to the extent that funds or services are contributed by the National Council for such purposes. Sums authorized to be appropriated under this section shall remain available until expended.

COMPLIANCE WITH BUDGET ACT

SEC. 6. No authority under this Act to enter into contracts or to make payments shall be effective except to the extent and in such amounts as provided in advance in appropriations Acts. Any provision of this Act which, directly or in-

directly, authorizes the enactment of new budget authority shall be effective only for fiscal years beginning after September 30, 1983.

PURPOSE

H.R. 6091 would designate the Mary McLeod Bethune "Council House" in Washington, D.C., as a national historic site and direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements with the National Council of Negro Women to provide technical and financial assistance to assure its continued preservation, maintenance and interpretation.

BACKGROUND AND NEED

"Council House," located at 1318 Vermont Ave., N.W., was the last official Washington, D.C., residence of Mary McLeod Bethune, the renowned educator and national political leader. Bethune was the founder and president of Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach, Florida, the National Council of Negro Women, and was appointed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt as Director of the Division of Negro Affairs of the National Youth Administration in Washington, D.C.

Mrs. Bethune lived at Council House from 1943 to 1949. It was here that she directed activities that brought her national and international recognition. The house served as the first national headquarters of the National Council of Negro Women. At "Council House" Mrs. Bethune received and entertained some of the most prominent national and international figures of the 1940's and 1950's, including Eleanor Roosevelt, Ralph Bunche, Charles Drew, Madame Pandit of India, and President Tubman of Liberia. National conferences, planning sessions, receptions and meetings of local and national organizations were held at this site.

Today, Council House remains in the ownership of the National Council of Negro Women. The property houses the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial Museum and the National Archieves for Black Women's History. The archives contains the largest extant manuscript collection of materials pertaining to black women and their organizations, and contains extensive correspondence, photographs and memorabilia relating to Mrs. Bethune. The museum and archieves actively collect artifacts, clothing, artwork, and other materials which document the history of black women and the black community.

The house, a four-story Victorian structure, is part of the Logan Circle Historic District which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Although the National Council of Negro Women has accomplished extensive restoration and interpretation of the site, including the museum and archives, legislation is needed to assure its continued preservation and use and to provide national recognition for the outstanding work of Mary McLeod Bethune and of black women.

OVERVIEW OF LEGISLATION

H.R. 6091 would designate the Mary McLeod Bethune "Council House" in Washington, D.C. as a national historic site. The site, which houses the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial Museum and the National Archives for Black Women's History, would continue to be owned

and operated by the National Council Negro Women. Under the bill, as introduced, the Secretary of the Interior, utilizing his authorities under the Historic Sites Act of 1935, would enter into cooperative agreements with the National Council to provide technical and financial assistance to assure the property's continued preservation, maintenance and interpretation.

The Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks held a hearing on the bill on May 30, 1982, and heard from Members of Congress, the D.C. City Council, the National Park Service and public witnesses, including representatives from the National Council of Negro Women.

The Administration opposed the bill on the grounds that the National Park Service has not conducted a study of the historical significance of the property. The National Park Service indicated that it does not plan to conduct such a study in the near future; however, it did acknowledge the significance of Mary McLeod Bethune in our Nation's history, and the fact that this site was of great significance in her life and to her accomplishments.

The significance of the site has been documented not only by the National Council of Negro Women but also by the Afro American Institute for Historic Preservation and Community Development. From testimony at the hearing and documents submitted for the record, it is clear that "Council House" would qualify, under other circumstances, for inclusion in the national park system. The bill represents a compromise approach, one that would retain the property in private ownership yet assure that it is recognized and protected—with Federal assistance but without the need for Federal ownership.

Because of concerns about the provisions for financial assistance to be provided under the legislation, the Subcommittee recommended and the full Committee approved an amendment in the nature of a substitute which would basically do two things: (1) authorize an appropriation of $100,000 to provide financial assistance to mark, interpret, and restore the site, including the making of preservation-related capital improvements and repairs, but not including routine operations or maintenance; and (2) authorize an additional $100,000 on a 50–50 matching basis as may be agreed to by the Secretary and to the extent that funds or services are contributed by the National Council for such purposes. The substitute further provides that no authority under the Act for contracts or payments will be effective except as provided in advance in appropriations Acts. New budget authority would not be effective until fiscal 1984. The substitute retains the requirements for the consummation of a cooperative agreement between the Secretary of the Interior and the National Council of Negro Women, and the requirement that the National Council, as a condition for receiving any assistance under the Act, provide to the Secretary and the Congress an annual report documenting the activities and expenditures for which any assistance was used.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1 provides Congressional findings concerning the historic significance of "Council House" and indicates the purpose of the Act

as being to assure the preservation of the house and site because of its historic meaning and prominence to the life and achievements of Mary McLeod Bethune, and to assure perpetuation of the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial Museum and the National Archives for Black Women's History.

Section 2 designates "Council House," 1318 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. as a national historic site.

Section 3 authorizes and directs the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements with the National Council of Negro Women. The agreements may include provisions by which the Secretary will provide technical assistance to mark, interpret, restore, and maintain the historic site and to provide financial assistance to the National Council of Negro Women to undertake these activities, as well as preservation-related capital improvements and repairs, but not including routine operations and maintenance. The agreement may include provisions by which the Secretary, acting through the National Park Service, shall have right of access for visitor use and interpretation at all reasonable times to the public portions of the property and provisions by which no changes or actions could be made in the buildings on the property except by mutual agreement. The agreement could not impose any limits or controls over the uses of the building customarily used for the purposes of the National Council of Negro Women. It is expected that the agreement will be consummated within six months of the date of enactment of the Act.

Section 4 requires the National Council of Negro Women, as a condition for receiving any assistance under this Act, to provide the Secretary of the Interior and the Congress with an annual report documenting the activities and expenditures for which any such assistance was used during the preceding fiscal year.

Section 5 authorizes an appropriation of up to $100,000 to provide financial assistance to the National Council of Negro Women, subject to the restrictions of the cooperative agreements, and an additional $100,000 to be provided on a 50–50 matching basis, as may be agreed to by the Secretary and to the extent that funds or services are contributed by the National Council.

Section 6 provides that no authority under the Act for contracts or payments will be effective except as provided in advance in appropriations Acts. New budget authority would not be effective until fiscal 1984.

OVERSIGHT STATEMENT

None of the matters contained in H.R. 6091 has been the subject of any reports or recommendations from the Committee on Government Operations under Rule X clause 2(b)(2) of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

INFLATIONARY IMPACT STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 2(l)(4) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee estimates that enactment of H.R. 6091, as amended, will have no inflationary impact on the national economy.

COST AND BUDGET ACT COMPLIANCE

The analysis of Congressional Budget Office, which the Committee adopts as its own, follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, D.C., July 9, 1982.

Hon. MORRIS K. UDALL,
Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, U.S. House of Representatives, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to Section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Congressional Budget Office has reviewed H.R. 6091, a bill to designate the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House in Washington, District of Columbia, as a national historic site, and for other purposes, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, June 23, 1982.

The bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to enter into a cooperative agreement with the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) to preserve the site. A $100,000 appropriation is authorized, beginning in fiscal year 1984 for restoring, marking and interpreting the site. An additional $100,000 is authorized to be appropriated beginning in fiscal year 1984 on a 50-50 matching grant basis to the NCNW for ongoing restoration work. Assuming the entire authorization is appropriated for fiscal year 1984, it is expected that all funds will be expended during that fiscal year, since restoration work is already in progress.

The bill also authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide technical assistance to the NCNW as needed for restoration, maintenance and operation of the site. While the bill does not specifically authorize the appropriation of funds for this purpose, it is expected, based on information from the National Park Service, that ongoing technical assistance could cost approximately $10,000 to $20,000 per year.

Should the Committee so desire, we would be pleased to provide further details on this estimate.

Sincerely,

ALICE M. RIVLIN, *Director.*

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY AND COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

H.R. 6091 was introduced on April 6, 1982. The Subcommittee on Public lands and National Parks held a hearing on the bill on May 20, 1982. On June 15, 1982 the bill was recommended to the full Committee which ordered it reported, as amended, by a voice vote on June 23, 1982. The Committee recommends its approval by the House.

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